

## NEWS



## LETTER

A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports,  
their History and Social Significance

Middleburg, Virginia 22117

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Nancy Cole, Editor

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## MRS. BLOODGOOD'S GIFT OF THE SANTINI PAPERS

In 1901 Captain Federico Caprilli, an Italian cavalry officer, published in that country's cavalry journal (*Rivista di Cavalleria*) a series of articles under the general heading "Principles of Cross-country Equestration." Caprilli believed that the horse crossing rough terrain and jumping obstacles should be allowed to find its own balance - that the rider should remain in balance with the horse, using the reins only to provide direction. These revolutionary principles were adopted by the Italian Cavalry (c. 1904). During the 1920's, when the Italian Army officers were almost invincible in international jumping classes, cavalry officers from other countries came to study at the schools of Pinerolo and Tor di Quinto - Col. Harry D. Chamberlin of the U. S. Cavalry attended the latter in 1923.

Major Piero Santini (1887-1960), an Italian officer with an American mother, wrote "Riding Reflections", published in New York by the Derrydale Press in 1932. The eminent author and instructor, Captain Vladimir Littauer (*Horseman's Progress*, 1962, p. 242) calls Santini's work "the first authentic presentation of the subject with a caustic wit and with poetic and of its seat . . . This masterly written book combines a lucid presentation of the subject with a caustic wit and with petic descriptions of foxhunting and country riding." A second Santini book "The Forward Impulse" (1930) contained important additions. His work as the pioneer author to introduce the now universally accepted style of riding over fences to the American public, was fortified by Col. Chamberlin, author of "Riding and Schooling Horses" and of "Training Hunters, Jumpers and Hacks", (New York, Derrydale, 1933, 1937).

Santini's collected papers were left to his intimate friend, Mrs. Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood, former Master of the Smithtown (Long Island) Hunt, herself an equestrian author of note and a long time correspondent of "The Chronicle of the Horse" and other periodicals. Mrs. Bloodgood has in turn given them to the National Sporting Library. She describes them as follows:

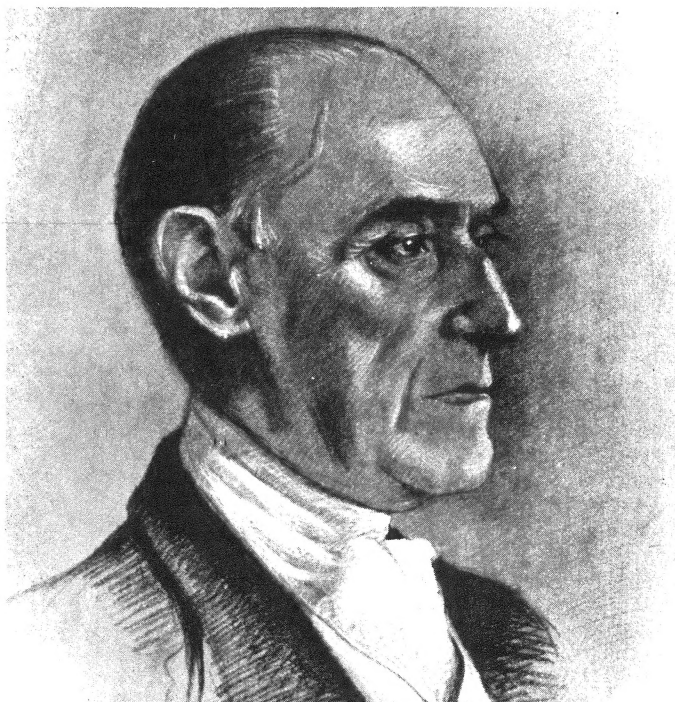
"The first volume - or rather "folder" - contains chiefly correspondence with prominent horsemen regarding the "forward seat" and therefore handwritten or signed letters to Santini from such personalities as Col. Timmis of Canada; Capt. Hance; Lord Cholmondeley; Col. Haffner; H. Wynmalen; Brooks Parker; Col. "Anthony" Hope, late Editor of "Light Horse"; Joseph Child, M.F.H., John Cudahy, ex-M.F.H. - later Ambassador to Poland - and many others, including one from H. Plowden, nephew of the famous American sculptor Herbert Haseltine, who was born here in Rome and is buried in the Protestant Cemetery here where Keats and Shelly lie. Mrs. Plowden, Haseltine's sister, also lies here and, I believe, Plowden himself.

The second album contains photographic reproductions of paintings of the Roman Hunt, founded by Lord Chesterfield in

1844, and various episodes, "Point-to-Points" etc. from the brush of Massimo d'Asseglio, E. Palizzi, B. Bompani, and Guilio Blas, the latter by permission of Ex-King Humbert of Italy who owns the originals. Also prints of similar events between 1844 and 1876.

The third album contains Major Santini's photo as an officer in World War I and his press cuttings at the time his first book "Riding Reflections" (1932) introduced Caprilli's "Sistema" on the "Forward Seat" to the English speaking world. These cuttings include articles in "Country Life", "Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic", "The Field", "Scottish Sporting Life", "Town and Country", "Polo", "Rider and Driver", together with letters from their editors - now all dead - and cuttings from "The Herald Tribune", "Times Literary Supplement", "Chicago Daily News", etc. of 1932-33.

The fourth volume consists of a "dummy" book of the format  
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Piero Santini, 1887-1960, a crayon drawing by Princess Lida Radziwill from "The Riding Instructor, Country Life Press, 1952.

## SPORTING ART IN THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

Among the treasures accumulated by the National Sporting Library since its founding in 1954 have been paintings, bronzes, engravings and other examples of the graphic arts. Previous issues of this Newsletter have shared with our readers the contents of several of our most outstanding volumes. As a change of pace this issue features not the printed word, but pictures.

Harry Worcester Smith (1865-1945) of "Lordvale," Worcester, Massachusetts, Master of the Grafton, the man who founded the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America (1907), who established the type of the modern American pack hound, and who, through the 1905 hound match, popularized northern Virginia as a foxhunting center, besides many additional achievements on behalf of horse and hound, also had another "first" to his credit, for it was he who revived interest in the painter Edward Troye (1809-1874). Born in Switzerland of French parentage and educated in England, Troye came to this country in 1828 at the age of 20, landing at Philadelphia. For the next half century, based in Kentucky, he painted portraits of virtually every famous horse in America, travelling to Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, England, Europe and the Near East where he sketched desert Arabians.

In his search for paintings by Troye begun in 1911 (he found about 270 in all) Harry Worcester Smith wrote to every Postmaster in each state where Troye was known to have worked, asking for names and addresses of people whose families had owned the same plantations since before the Civil War. Postmasters had more time in those days, so H.W.S. received several thousand names in reply. To each of these he again wrote, asking if they still had pictures of horses owned by their ancestors. He then set out by train and automobile (over the bad roads of the time), to visit every one of the several hundred people at widely scattered points who had answered in the affirmative.

One of these was Frank Hampton, grandson of Wade Hampton I (1791-1858) of Millwood, South Carolina, one of the richest men in the South, highly successful as a cotton planter, and a pioneer of the Louisiana sugar industry. Wade Hampton was a leading patron not only of the Turf, but also of Troye. In the British weekly "The Field" (Jan. 21, 1926, p. 96) Harry Worcester Smith wrote: "To Millwood, Columbia, South Carolina, the country seat of Col. Wade Hampton, Troye perhaps went next (i.e. 1839-41). There he painted Maria West (owned by Col. Hampton - actually he painted Bay Maria - American Turf Register, Vol. XI, p. 617) one of the foundation mares in American turf history; Argyle (XVI A.T.R. Aug., 1843, p. 430, now owned by the Virginia Historical Society); Monarch (XIV A.T.R. Oct 1843, p. 559), and Sovereign, the latter two by \*

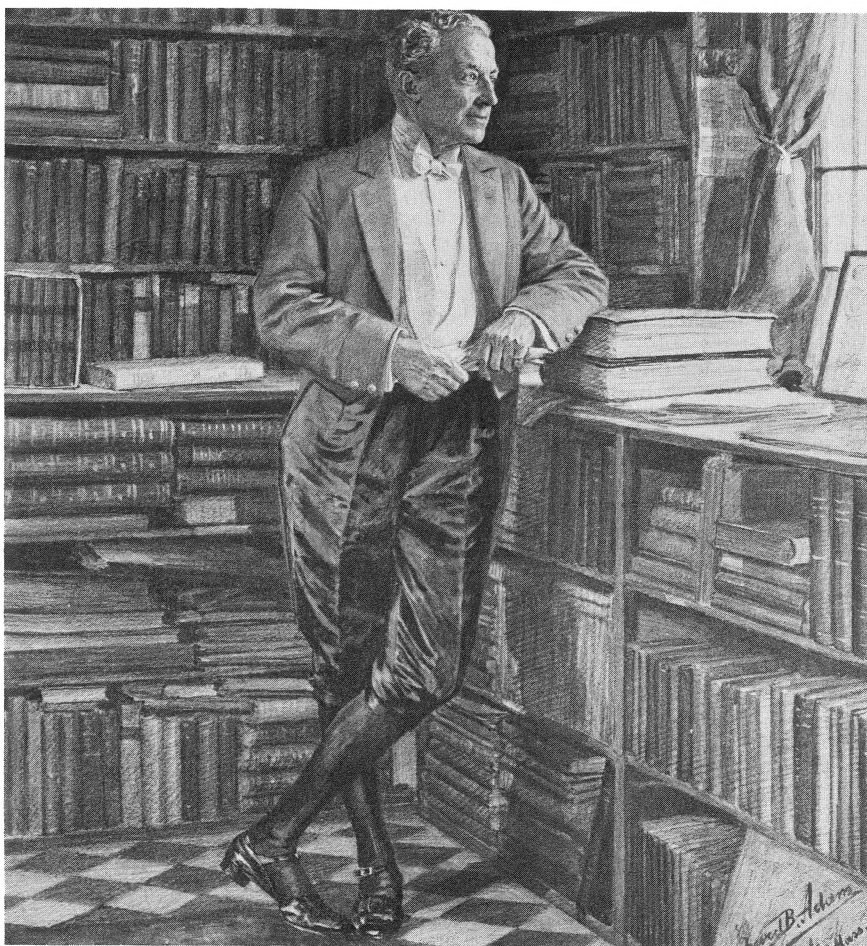
Priam, and others. Millwood was burned to the ground by General Sherman, but the

paintings (on their original stretchers) were snatched from their frames and had been resting for 50 odd years in the attic of one of the Colonel's descendants until I enquired for them."

The collected papers of Harry Worcester Smith are now the property of the National Sporting Library. Among them is a printed invitation issued by H.W.S. to "The Stewards of the County Club (Brookline), the Gentlemen Riders, Owners and Visiting Sportsmen" to a luncheon at "Lordvale" on June 18th, 1926. The invitation notes the books and paintings which "There will be on view." Among the paintings listed are several by Troye including "American Eclipse, winner of the \$20,000 Match Race with Sir Henry, presented to Mr. Smith by Frank Hampton, Esquire, of Millwood, S.C." Since Eclipse was not actually owned by Wade Hampton I, this was an appropriate painting for his grandson to present to Mr. Smith. The picture was sold at auction in New York in 1974. It was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom who presented it to the National Sporting Library, Middleburg, Virginia, of which Mr. Ohrstrom is President.

Troye's first painting of this portrait of American Eclipse is probably the one bequeathed to the New York Historical Society (received Dec. 10, 1909) by Mary Rhinelander King, which is signed "E. Troye, May 1834." The background is identical with the background of the Hampton-Sporting Library picture. The same background appears in Troye's portrait of Henry, also in the possession of the New York Historical Society and signed "E. Troye June 1834", and also published as an engraving in the New York Sporting Magazine, (Vol. II., No. 1, July 1834, p. 1) which is the most detailed of any. The background shows the building and fields of the stud farm belonging to John R. Snediker which adjoined the Union Course on Long Island, N.Y., situated on the same belt of well turfed sandy soil where Belmont Park now stands. At the left of the picture is one of the stands for spectators. Both Eclipse and Henry are known to have stood here during their careers at stud, that of Eclipse being particularly illustrious. The setting is most appropriate, for it was at the Union Course that the first great North-South match took

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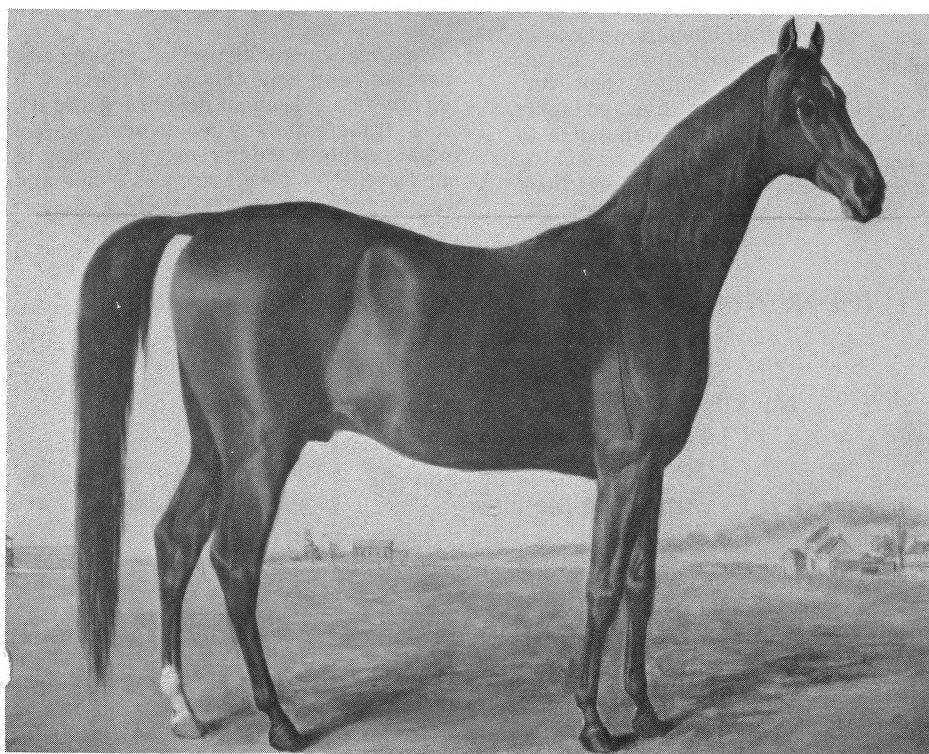


Harry Worcester Smith in his library at Lordvale. A painting dated 1928 by Richard B. Adam who came over from Germany to paint a number of prominent sportsmen of this era. On loan to the National Sporting Library from the Saddle and Sirloin Club, Chicago, Illinois.



place on May 27, 1823 when Eclipse, belonging to Cornelius W. Van Ranst of Harlem, New York, beat Sir Henry, belonging to Lemuel Long and trained by William Ransom Johnson, "The Napoleon of the Turf" at his Oaklands plantation near Petersburg, Virginia. The race was for the best two out of three heats of 4 miles each, \$20,000 a side, Sir Henry winning the first and Eclipse the last two, the crowd of over 60,000 roused to a fever pitch of excitement. At 4:30 that afternoon the New York Evening Post reported the race in a special edition, the first sporting extra in U. S. journalism. What are apparently replicas by Troye, dated simply 1834, of these two portraits, hang in the Board Room of the Jockey Club, New York City.

When Troye visited Millwood he undoubtedly was asked to paint a replica of the 1834 Eclipse portrait. Although Col. Hampton was partial to bloodlines imported from England, he also patronised native sires, particularly American Eclipse. Col. Hampton purchased from her breeder, Charles Henry Hall of New York, Bay Maria, f. 1831, (by Eclipse ex Lady Lightfoot) who won for him the 4 mile Jockey Club purse at Charleston, South Carolina and other good races. After Maria West's first foal, Wagner, beat Grey Eagle in the East-West match at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1839, Col. Hampton bought (from Daniel Duggan of Virginia) her daughter Fanny, f. 1836 (by Eclipse) who also won for him the 4 mile Jockey Club Purse and two 3 mile heat handicaps. Considering American Eclipse's great reputation on the race course and at stud, and considering Col. Hampton's success with his daughters, there was every reason for him to commission Troye to paint a portrait of the horse to hang in the Millwood great house. AM-S



American Eclipse by Edward Troye (c. 1834) Gift of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Ohrstrom.

#### John Gully

Among the many gifts which the National Sporting Library has received from Paul Mellon one of the most valuable is the portrait of John Gully by the great British sporting painter Ben Marshall. Born in 1783, the son of a Bristol butcher, Gully's attempts to follow his father's calling failed early in 1805 when he was put by his creditors in the Fleet Prison for debt. There he was visited by his friend Henry Pierce, otherwise known as "the Game Chicken", a prize fighter who was champion of England. A sparring match in prison with Gully convinced Pierce that Gully was a worthy opponent. A match was then arranged, sponsored by Colonel Mellish, under the terms of which Gully's debts would be paid. It took place on October 8th, 1805 at Hailsham, Sussex under the patronage of the Duke of Clarence, later to become King William IV. The match lasted for 64 rounds (1 hour and 17 minutes) at the end of which Pierce was declared the victor. The latter then retired, leaving Gully as champion. In 1807 and 1808 he twice beat Bob Gregson, the Lancashire Giant, and then retired himself. He next became landlord of "The Plow Inn" on Cary Street in London and from there branched out into a career as a bookmaker. Acting as betting commissioner for a number of notables, including the Prince Regent, he made a fortune, acquiring the nickname "Honest John Gully". Lord George Bentinck said "Gully might knock you down, but he would never do you down", while Charles Greville said that he had "good sense, good taste and good manners". Gully's trainer William Day was less complimentary, describing his "tyrannical and over-bearing disposition" and remarking that he was "extremely avaricious".



John Gully, 1783-1863, by Ben Marshall. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon.

In 1827 Gully purchased secretly from Lord Jersey the Epsom Derby winner Mameluke and backed him with William Crockford to win forty-five thousand pounds in the St. Leger. Somehow Crockford found out that Gully was the real owner, and arranged to have the horse bumped into and otherwise annoyed before the start, well knowing that Mameluke was extremely temperamental. After seven false starts they finally got away with Mameluke facing in the wrong direction - he nevertheless finished second. The morning after the race Crockford said "is it convenient for you to settle Mr. Gully?", while Gully replied "It is always convenient Mr. Crockford, but it is not always pleasant." Gully became Squire of Ackworth and is said to have been a Joint Master of the Badsworth Hunt. He served as a member of Parliament for Pontefract from 1832 to 1837. In 1832 he won his first Epsom Derby with St. Giles, later imported to the Forks of Cypress, Alabama, by James Jackson who also owned the imported stallions Glencoe and Leviathan. He won his second Derby with Pyrrhus The First in 1840.

In 1844 Gully got back at Crockford for the 1827 St. Leger incident. Crockford was then in failing health (he died shortly afterwards) but hoped to realise his lifelong ambition of winning the Derby with Ratan. Gully is thought to have bribed the jockey Sam Rogers who pulled the horse, finishing seventh. The tables were turned on Gully in 1845 when his Old England was favored for the Derby. William Day, the trainer's son, somehow got at the horse, together with two others, all of them being warned off the turf for life. Gully won his third Derby with Andover in 1854. In 1862, the year before his death, he bought the Wingate Estate and coal mines in County Durham. Gully was twice married having twelve children by each wife, twenty-four in all!

Continued from page 1  
 that was intended for his book "The Riding Instructor", but used to paste in various pictures of his years as an officer during World War I (on the Salonika Front where he was awarded the "Medaglio per Valore Militare"). There are also various photographs of him hunting in the Roman Campagna; of his apartment in the Palazzo Borghese in Rome, and various reviews of his books and articles. At the end you will find (pasted in by me) the obituaries in American, English, Continental etc. newspapers and magazines, as well as photographs of his tomb here in Rome which is also that of his illustrious American maternal grandfather, the noted sculptor Randolph Rogers - finishing with your last letter to me in which you couple Santini's name with that of Caprilli.

Piero Santini's first book, "Riding Reflections", introduced the Captilli "Forward Seat" to the English speaking world - thus revolutionizing all theories of riding over fences. Most of the writers are now dust and many of the papers and magazines non-existent. These Albums will be, I think, of historical value to the sporting world. And as the Library has received from me all of Santini's books, I feel that these albums should be included."

Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood  
 November 9th, 1977

## BOOK COLLECTING AT N.S.L.

Shortly after receiving the June issue of the National Sporting Library Newsletter, one of our Sponsors, Mr. John Daniels wrote to us suggesting several interesting possibilities for topics which might interest the Friends of the National Sporting Library. One of these suggestions was, that since many of the library members either already collect or might be interested in starting a collection of sporting literature, we offer suggestions and advice about forming a collection.

The National Sporting Library collects both new (in print) books and old and rare literature and manuscripts in the areas loosely referred to as turf and field sports. This includes subjects as diverse as falconry and foxhunting, polo and steeple-chasing. The books come to the library in three ways; through members of the Friends of the National Sporting Library Association and their friends who have collected sporting works over the years; through the generosity of the Ohrstrom family and the Chronicle of the Horse who give the library all of the books which are sent to the Chronicle for book reviews; and last through purchase by the library from the funds received from the Friends Association.

While the library does buy some few new books, the majority of its purchases are of older books which are offered for sale through various sporting book dealers in the United States as well as England and the Continent. Many of these dealers specialise in one particular branch of sport such as dogs, fishing, shooting or racing. Others manage to cover almost the whole range of turf and field sports and

periodically issue catalogues of books for sale in one or more of the different categories of field sports. In the latter group R.E. and G.B. Way, J.A. Allen and Co., and Grayling Books of England are perhaps the largest and most useful. In the United States we have Sidney Smith in New York and Blue Rider Books in Massachusetts. Of course there are numerous other dealers who list sporting books in their catalogues, and one often finds a bargain from a dealer who is a specialist in other areas. Nearly all of these dealers will send their catalogues out free upon request. They make fascinating reading and may help act as a guide to the prices and values of books already owned.

Another excellent way of locating books for the more serious collector is through the weekly publication "AB Bookman's Weekly". This is the best and most comprehensive trade publication devoted to the antiquarian and specialist book trade. It is where book dealers from all over the United States and Canada advertise their books for sale and publish lists of the books which they are trying to locate for customers. If you go to a book store and put in a request for an out of print book, chances are you will see it shortly thereafter listed in the Books Wanted section of AB. The Books Wanted section is open only to dealers and libraries, but any one may buy and advertise a book or books for sale. The Books For Sale columns are well worth going through, since one can find books from dealers who normally specialize in another area. The magazine also features scholarly articles on such topics as colonial printing, the preservation of books and the prices of noteworthy books sold at auctions at Christies, Parke Bernet etc.

Finally, don't neglect the college book sales, local church rummage sales and the attics of your relatives. If you live in a "horsey" area like Middleburg or Lexington you may be surprised at what you can turn up. One note of caution, however, book collecting is a competitive and highly addictive sport. It's nearly impossible to buy just one book. You may just be looking for one old favorite Surtees' story or a book on training polo ponies but before you

know it you can't sleep at night for wondering where you can locate the last volume needed to complete your Somerville and Ross set or calling up a dealer in London hoping you were the first to see his advertisement for first edition of Notitia Venatica.

Good hunting!

Names and addresses of dealers will be furnished on request.

## DONATIONS TO THE N.S.L.

Since the publication of our last Newsletter gifts of books and other materials have been received from Gordon Barton of the Sporting Gallery, Middleburg, Jack Berryman, Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood, The Chronicle of the Horse, Dan Cox, Robert M. Denhardt, John G. Fritz, Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords, Alexander Mackay-Smith, The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America, Paul Mellon, Polo Magazine, Ricard Ohrstrom, Jr., Charles R. Rogers, Raymond R. Rupert, ex-M. F. H. Marborough Hunt, James Fagan Scharnberg, Lowry Watkins, and Peter Winants.

## NEW FRIENDS OF THE N.S.L.

Since the publication of our last members list in the June, 1977 Newsletter the following individuals have become Friends of the National Sporting Library:

Melvin Lee Kitzmiller, Winchester, Va.  
 Professor Henry W. Lewis, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
 Miss Clara Peck, New York City  
 Howard C. Rogers, II, Hamilton, Va.  
 William P. Winkelman, Lohrville, Iowa

We are always delighted to welcome new members and hope that our Friends will tell other friends about the library and it's work. If there are any people who you feel might be interested in receiving a copy of our Newsletter please drop us a line and we will be happy to send them a copy.

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*Donations of books as well as cash are acceptable for membership.*

*All gifts, both books and cash, are tax deductible.*

**Make checks payable to: National Sporting Library, Middleburg, Va. 22117**